

Applicant: James G. Tribble  
Appl. No.: To be assigned  
(divisional of 10/053,793)

***In the Claims:***

Please cancel in this application claims 1-37 of the prior application, without prejudice and disclaimer, and add the new claims herein before calculating the filing fee.

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

Claims 1-37 (canceled)

38. (original) A method for manufacturing a bat, comprising the steps of:
- (a) inserting a fitting portion of a wood barrel portion into a barrel receiving end of a metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam between said wood barrel portion and said metal handle portion of the bat;
  - (b) boring a hole through said metal handle portion and said fitting portion of said wood barrel portion, said hole being traverse to a longitudinal axis of the bat;
  - (c) inserting a pin into said hole; and
  - (d) securing said pin in said hole.
39. (original) The method according to claim 38, wherein said pin is a locking pin having a male component and a female component such that said securing said pin of said step (d) comprises inserting said male component into said female component.
40. (currently amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said pin is a roll pin ~~such that said securing said pin of said step (d) comprises inserting a first fastener in a first end~~

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~~of said hole and inserting a second fastener in a second end of said hole, said fastener being selected from the group consisting of threaded cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers.~~

Please add the following new claims:

41. (new) The method according to claim 40, wherein said step (d) comprises inserting a first fastener in a first end of said hole and inserting a second fastener in a second end of said hole.
42. (new) The method according to claim 41, wherein said fastener is selected from the group consisting of threaded cap screws, rivets, grommets, and washers.
43. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein said step (d) comprises tack welding at least one end of said pin.
44. (new) The method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of:
  - (e) fitting an exterior sleeve over the bat, said exterior sleeve being an elongated tube having a top opening and a bottom opening, such that said top opening is in contact with said wood barrel portion of the bat and said bottom opening is in contact with said metal handle portion of the bat.

45. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein said step (e) fits said exterior sleeve over the bat such that said seam is about centered in said exterior sleeve.
46. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein an interior surface of said exterior sleeve approximates the exterior surface of the bat at said seam.
47. (new) The method according to claim 46, wherein said interior surface is generally hour-glass shaped.
48. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein said exterior sleeve is made of a hard rubber.
49. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein said exterior sleeve has a length within the range of about 1.5 inches to about 3.5 inches.
50. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein said wood barrel portion has a transition between said hitting portion and said fitting portion, said transition being a smooth and gradual taper.

- 51. (new) The method according to claim 50, wherein said transition is about a 45 degree slope.
- 52. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein said pin has a length equal to about a length of said hole.
- 53. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein said hole is in proximity to said seam.
- 54. (new) The method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of:
  - (e) positioning an interior sleeve over said fitting portion of said wood barrel portion prior to said step (a) such that said fitting portion with said interior sleeve are inserted within said barrel receiving portion of said metal handle portion.
- 55. (new) The method according to claim 54, wherein said interior sleeve is a material selected from the group consisting of about 40 durometer gum rubber and tacky gum rubber.
- 56. (new) The method according to claim 54, wherein said interior sleeve is an elongated tapered tube having a length about equal to a length of said fitting portion of said wooden barrel portion.

57. (new) The method according to claim 54 wherein said top opening of said interior sleeve is slightly below said seam
58. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein said step (b) bores said hole about one half an inch below said seam.
59. (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein said metal handle portion is hollow.
60. (new) A method for manufacturing a bat, comprising the steps of:
- (a) inserting a fitting portion of a wood barrel portion into a barrel receiving end of a metal handle portion, thereby creating a seam between said wood barrel portion and said metal handle portion of the bat, wherein said wood barrel portion is a solid piece of wood having a hitting portion and said fitting portion, and said metal handle portion being an elongated hollow tube having a length that tapers from said barrel receiving end to a handle end wherein said barrel receiving end is greater in diameter than said handle end and said barrel receiving end is the approximate taper as said fitting portion of said wood barrel portion, and said metal handle portion is longer than said wood barrel portion;
  - (b) boring a hole through said metal handle portion and said fitting portion of said wood barrel portion, said hole having a length, being traverse to a longitudinal axis of the bat, and having a uniform diameter throughout the length of said hole;

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- (c) inserting a pin into said hole, said pin having a first end and a second end; and
- (d) securing said pin in said hole such that said first end of said pin and said second end of said pin are about flush with or slightly below an exterior surface of said barrel receiving end of said metal handle portion.